

AMENDMENT

Amendments to the Claims: Please replace all prior versions and listings of claims with the following listing of claims.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for accessing web services via an instant messaging client, comprising:

a hardware processor configured to:

receive a first instant message from an instant messaging client, wherein the first instant message includes a configuration command that identifies a Web Service Description Language (WSDL) file for a web service;

receive a second instant message from the instant messaging client, wherein the second instant message includes a user command that names a web service command that invokes the web service identified in the configuration command;

generate linking information that links the user command to the web service identified in the configuration command and the web service command named in the user command, wherein the processor stores the generated linking information in a database;

receive, after the linking information is generated and stored in the database, a third instant message from the instant messaging client, wherein the third instant message includes the user command that names the web service command and one or more parameters for the [[the]] user command; and

generate a call to the web service command based on the linking information stored in the database, wherein the call to the web service command includes the one or more parameters for the user command in a predetermined format associated with the web service command; and

a web services engine that invokes the web service identified in the configuration command with the generated call to the web service command, receives results from the web

service in response to the web service processing the generated call to the web service command, and sends the results received from the web service to the instant messaging client.

2-3. **(Cancelled)**

4. **(Currently Amended)** The system according to claim 1, wherein the web services engine invokes the web service identified in the configuration command in response to locating one or more of a Web Service Description Language (WSDL) the WSDL file or a network address that the configuration command further includes to identify the web service.

5. **(Previously Presented)** The system according to claim 1, wherein the generated call that the web services engine uses to invoke the web service has the predetermined format associated with the web service command.

6. **(Previously Presented)** The system according to claim 4, wherein the generated linking information that the processor stores in the database further links the user command to the WSDL file.

7. **(Previously Presented)** The system according to claim 1, wherein the generated linking information that the processor stores in the database further links the user command to the predetermined format associated with the web service command.

8. **(Previously Presented)** The system according to claim 1, wherein the processor further stores one or more of an identifier or a password for a user of the instant messaging client in the database.

9. **(Previously Presented)** The system according to claim 1, wherein the processor further stores privileges for a user of the instant messaging client in the database.

10. **(Currently Amended)** The system according to claim 1, wherein the generated linking information that the processor stores in the database further links the user command to a location for a Web Service Description Language (WSDL) the WSDL file location that the configuration command further includes to identify the web service.

11. **(Previously Presented)** The system according to claim 1, wherein the generated linking information that the processor stores in the database further links the user command to a network address that the configuration command further includes to identify the web service.

12. **(Currently Amended)** The system according to claim 1, wherein the generated linking information that the processor stores in the database further links the user command to a name for a Web Service Description Language (WSDL) the WSDL file name that the configuration command further includes to identify the web service.

13-14. **(Cancelled)**

15. **(Previously Presented)** The system according to claim 1, wherein the web service is associated with one or more of an enterprise system or a legacy system.

16. **(Previously Presented)** The system according to claim 9, further comprising a security and provisioning engine that controls access to the web service, the web service command, or the user command based on the privileges for the user of the instant messaging client.

17. **(Previously Presented)** The system according to claim 16, wherein the security and provisioning engine further controls access to the results received from the web service based on the privileges for the user of the instant messaging client.

18. **(Previously Presented)** The system according to claim 17, wherein the privileges for the user of the instant messaging client indicate whether the user has authorization to access one or more of an enterprise system or a legacy system associated with the web service.

19. **(Previously Presented)** The system according to claim 1, wherein the processor interfaces with a remote database that stores privileges for a user of the instant messaging client.

20. **(Previously Presented)** The system according to claim 19, wherein the remote database includes a directory that stores the privileges for the user of the instant messaging client.

21. **(Currently Amended)** A computer-implemented method for accessing web services via an instant messaging client, comprising:

receiving a first instant message from an instant messaging client, wherein the first instant message includes a configuration command that identifies a Web Service Description Language (WSDL) file for a web service;

receiving a second instant message from the instant messaging client, wherein the second instant message includes a user command that names a web service command that invokes the web service identified in the configuration command;

generating, via a hardware processor, linking information that links the user command to the web service identified in the configuration command and the web service command named in the user command, wherein the processor stores the generated linking information in a database;

receiving, via the processor, after the linking information is generated and stored in the database, a third instant message from the instant messaging client, wherein the third instant message includes the user command that names the web service command and one or more parameters for the [[the]] user command;

generating, via the processor, a call to the web service command based on the linking information stored in the database, wherein the call to the web service command includes the one or more parameters for the user command in a predetermined format associated with the web service command;

invoking, via a web services engine, the web service identified in the configuration command with the generated call to the web service command, wherein the web services engine receives results from the web service in response to the web service processing the generated call to the web service command; and

sending the results received from the web service to the instant messaging client.

22. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 21, wherein the web services engine invokes the web service identified in the configuration command in response to locating a Web Service Description Language (WSDL) the WSDL file that the configuration command further includes to identify the web service.

23. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 21, wherein the web services engine invokes the web service identified in the configuration command in response to locating a network address that the configuration command further includes to identify the web service.

24. **(Cancelled)**

25. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 21, wherein the web services engine receives the results from the web service in a message sent from the web service to the web services engine.

26. **(Cancelled)**

27. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 25, further comprising sending the results in the message received from the web service to one or more other recipients selected by a user of the instant messaging client.

28. **(Original)** The method according to claim 21, wherein the web service is associated with an enterprise system.

29. **(Original)** The method according to claim 21, wherein the web service is associated with a legacy system.

30. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 21, wherein the processor further stores one or more of an identifier, a password, or privileges for a user of the instant messaging client in the database.

31. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 30, further comprising controlling, by a security and provisioning engine, access to one or more of the web service, the web service command, or the user command based on the identifier, the password, or the privileges for the user of the instant messaging client.

32. **(Cancelled)**

33. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 21, further comprising parsing security information for a user of the instant messaging client to determine whether the user has authorization to access the web service.

34. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 33, wherein the processor further stores the security information for the user of the instant messaging client in the database.

35. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 34, wherein the database includes a directory that stores the security information for the user of the instant messaging client.

36. **(Currently Amended)** A non-transitory program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a machine to perform a method for accessing web services via an instant messaging client, the method comprising:

receiving a first instant message from an instant messaging client, wherein the first instant message includes a configuration command that identifies a [[a]] Web Service Description Language (WSDL) file;

returning a web service command that invokes a web service listed in the WSDL file to the instant messaging client in response to the first instant message;

receiving a second instant message from the instant messaging client, wherein the second instant message includes a user command that names the web service command that invokes the web service listed in the WSDL file;

generating linking information that links the user command to the web service listed in the WSDL file and the web service command named in the user command, wherein a processor stores the generated linking information in a database;

receiving, via the processor, after the linking information is generated and stored in the database, a third instant message from the instant messaging client, wherein the third instant message includes the user command that names the web service command and one or more parameters for the [[the]] user command;

generating, via the processor, a call to the web service command based on the linking information, wherein the call to the web service command includes the one or more parameters for the user command in a predetermined format associated with the web service command;

invoking, via a web services engine, the web service listed in the WSDL file with the generated call to the web service command, wherein the web services engine receives results

from the web service in response to the web service processing the generated call to the web service command; and

sending the results received from the web service to the instant messaging client.

37. **(Cancelled)**

38. **(Previously Presented)** The program storage device according to claim 36, wherein the web services engine receives the results from the web service in a message sent from the web service to the web services engine.

39. **(Cancelled)**

40. **(Previously Presented)** The program storage device according to claim 38, further comprising sending wherein the results in the message received from the web service to one or more other recipients selected by a user of the instant messaging client.

41. **(Previously Presented)** The program storage device according to claim 36, wherein the processor further stores privileges for a user of the instant messaging client in the database.

42. **(Previously Presented)** The program storage device according to claim 36, further comprising controlling, by a security and provisioning engine, access to one or more of the web service, the web service command, or the user command based on the privileges for the user of the instant messaging client.

43-52. **(Cancelled)**

53. **(Previously Presented)** The system according to claim 1, wherein a user of the instant messaging client directly transmits the results received from the web service to at least one other user via the instant messaging client.

54. (Cancelled)

55. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein a user of the first instant messaging client selects one or more other recipients for the results received from the web service, and wherein the web services engine further sends the results received from the web service to the one or more other recipients.

56. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 9, further comprising a filter that prevents the user of the instant message client from viewing the results received from the web service if the privileges for the user do not permit access to the results.

57. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 55, wherein the web services engine sends the results received from the web service to the one or more other recipients without prompting from the other recipients.

58-62. (Cancelled)

63. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 9, wherein the processor is further configured to determine whether the privileges for the user of the instant messaging client permit access to the results received from the web service.

64. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein the processor is further configured to return the web service command that invokes the web service and the predetermined format associated with the web service command to the instant messaging client in response to the first instant message.

65. **(Previously Presented)** The system according to claim 64, wherein the processor is further configured to return a confirmation that the user command has been linked to the web service and the web service command in response to the instant messaging client in response to the second instant message, wherein the confirmation returned to the instant messaging client includes a syntax for subsequently invoking the user command.

66. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 21, further comprising returning the web service command that invokes the web service and the predetermined format associated with the web service command to the instant messaging client in response to the first instant message.

67. **(Previously Presented)** The method according to claim 66, further comprising returning a confirmation that the user command has been linked to the web service and the web service command in response to the instant messaging client in response to the second instant message, wherein the confirmation returned to the instant messaging client includes a syntax for subsequently invoking the user command.

68. **(Previously Presented)** The program storage device according to claim 36, further comprising:

returning the predetermined format associated with the web service command to the instant messaging client in response to the first instant message; and

returning a confirmation that the user command has been linked to the web service and the web service command in response to the instant messaging client in response to the second instant message, wherein the confirmation returned to the instant messaging client includes a syntax for subsequently invoking the user command.